

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-21¹ that were pending in the application, only claim 1 was rejected in the Office Action. Applicants greatly appreciate the positive indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-21.² In response to this positive indication, claim 2 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 3-6 depend), claim 7 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 8 and 9 depend), claims 10-13, claim 14 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 15-17 depend), and claim 18 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 19-21 depend) have been amended to be in independent claim format. Accordingly, claims 2-21 should be in condition for allowance.

In addition to the foregoing, Applicants have also: (a) canceled claim 1, without prejudice or disclaimer; (b) amended claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10-15, 17-19, and 21 to address various issues of form (e.g., antecedent basis, amending “wound” to “provided”, etc.); and (c) added new claim 22. No new matter has been presented. Accordingly, claims 2-22 are respectfully presented for further consideration.

1. Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants appreciate the indication, by way of Examiner initials, that the Examiner considered each of the references listed in the Form PTO/SB/08, which was submitted along with the Information Disclosure Statement (“IDS”) that was filed on October 8, 2004. Applicants respectfully request a similar indication that the Examiner also considered the references that were submitted along with the IDS that was filed on January 26, 2004.

2. Rejection of Claim 1

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0108744 (“Scheib”). Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot due to the cancellation of claim 1, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, a withdrawal of the rejection is both warranted and earnestly solicited.

¹ Applicants note that the Examiner did not include claim 21 in the listing of pending claims on page 1 of the Office or in the listing of claims that contain allowable subject matter on page 2 of the Office Action. However, as claim 21 depends from claim 18, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, Applicants assume that the Examiner also intended to include claim 21 in the listings of pending claims and claims that contain allowable subject matter.

² See *id.*

3. New Claim 22

New claim 22, which is similar to claim 10, recites a first cylindrical body that has "an opening that is configured to be connected to an air conditioning unit so that an inner space of the first cylindrical body serves as an air duct." Applicants note that Scheib's tube 13, which the Examiner analogizes to the "first cylindrical body", does not have an opening of the type recited in claim 22, as clearly shown in Figure 3 of Scheib. Accordingly, claim 22 is allowable over Scheib for at least this reason.

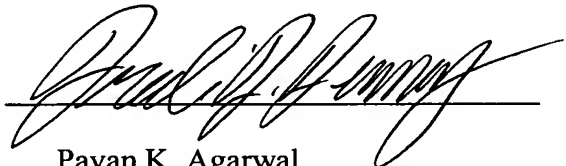
CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, claims 2-22 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



Pavan K. Agarwal
Registration No. 40,888

Customer Number: 22428
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
3000 K Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143

Frederic T. Tenney
Registration No. 47,131

Telephone: (202) 672-5300
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Attorneys for Applicant

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HERewith, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HERewith, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.